MEW BURN - The Honourable Major General - Minister of Militia & Defence 1918-1919 (076)

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November 5th, 1918

The Honourable Major General Newburn,

Minister of Militia and Defence,

Ottawa.

Dear Sir:

I am writing to you on behalf of the University in order that if possible we may secure through you leave of absence for Captain A.B. Fennell, M.C., who has been appointed with the Canadian Expeditionary Force to Siberia. Captain Fennell is the Assistant Registrar of the University of Toronto and for three years has been on active service. During these three years the University has allowed all members of its staff who desired to do so to volunteer for active service and we have been running with a very reduced staff. This has told upon us seriously and the Registrar in particular is feeling the strain. From now on in view of changes that are necessary in the way of readjusting the University to conditions that will arise on the proclamation of peace or even before the pressure is becoming heavier than ever. Would you therefore be good enough to grant leave of absence for two months beginning the first of December to Captain Fennell so that he may not require to go to Siberia at present and may be detailed to us in order that he may help the Registrar at this difficult time in the office ?

I am,

Yours sincerely,

President.

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December 7th, 1918

General Newburn,

Minister of Militia,

Ottawa.

Dear General Newburn:

I have to-day had word from Lt.-Colonel P. J. Dawson, commanding the 46th Battalion, Saskatchewan Regiment, that two field guns were on the 12th of November turned into the Fourth Canadian Divisional Ammunition Column marked and claimed for the University of Toronto. These guns were captured by the Saskatchewan Regiment in the final great battle of the war before Valenciennes and their capture was marked by acts of great gallantry.

The guns are 10.5 c.m. Howitzers with numbers 16207 and 2748, and Registered Numbers 386.AAAA and 386.BBBB respectively.

Would you be kind enough to give orders that these guns shall not be diverted and shall be brought to the University of Toronto ? You will realize that they will be a perpetual memorial of the valour of our Canadians in the University and will be especially significant to us as the Officer Commanding the Regiment that captured these guns is one of our distinguished graduates.

Yours sincerely,

President.

February 12th, 1918

Major General Newburn,

Department of Militia and Defence, Ottawa, Ont.

Dear General Newburn:

I am sorry to trouble you again, but the urgency of the situation in such that I feel I must bring the matter directly before you.

Last May I requested the recall of Colonel Royce so that he might be released from military duty to take up work in teaching at the University this autumn. The unprecedentedly large attendance of medical students has made such demands upon our staff that in some departments, particularly that with which Dr. Royce is connected, namely Oto-Laryngology, it is quite impossible for those in charge to carry the burden placed upon them.

Colonel Royce was returned, but his military duties were continued so that he cannot give to the University the time that is quite essential. I am told that instead of being released from these military duties he is about to assume certain new services that were in charge of Colonel Nishart in this military district. This will mean that the university teaching cannot be performed satisfactorily. At the present time Professor Nishart has only two whom he can use and the state of affairs has become intolerable from the teaching point of view. I think you will

recognise that during all these years the University has done its utmost to meet the needs of the situation. Our staff, greatly reduced, has been carrying a double load, and now certain of our men are on the point of breaking down. The fitting of students who have returned from active service overseas into their places is giving us an extraordinary amount of difficulty, but we are doing our best to get them into civilian life as quickly as possible. In view of the fact that Colonel Royce was brought back at our request last summer, surely we might be allowed the use of his services in such a way that they will be of real value to us now that he has returned.

I am sorry to have to put the matter so strongly before you but it is only urgency that has made me do so.

Yours sincerely,

President.